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C. Work and Leisure

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In traditional China, leisure was seen as a time for replenishment of bodily and psychic energy; leisure was necessary if one were not to suffer depletion of vital forces.[20] Abundant leisure was also important evidence of membership in the favored social class. In Communist China, work and vigorous activity are given a high value; hard work and ceaseless struggle are characteristic of all the "models" held up before the people in all the propaganda media. The ceaseless activity of the top leaders is meant to set a pattern for those who follow them. Leisure as contemplative bodily replenishment is devaluated, and active sports which develop competitive spirit are being promoted. Leisure as a mark of high status has disappeared.

D. Authority and the Individual

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The father's relation to his sons was the model for the exercise of authority in traditional China. Ideally the father was to be firm and aloof, seeing to it rather impersonally that his children were well cared for and given proper instruction. The son was to submit unquestioningly to his father's will at all times. He had no independence of judgment or action until after his father's death. The son's loyalty and devotion were also to show themselves in providing for the father's comfort in old age, in arranging a proper funeral and burial, and in periodic offerings to his father's tablet in the ancestral hall of the family.

In the political sphere the emperor was the "father" of his people, and the key local magistrates of the imperial bureaucracy was often referred to as the "Fathers and Mothers of the People " To reciprocate the

20. Ibid., pp. 37-40.

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The "Democratic Reform" Drive was aimed at the purge of trade unions and the political indoctrination of the working class. The Communist press claimed that, after their successful struggle against these "reactionary elements," the political consciousness of the workers was higher and the trade-union organizations were stronger than they had been.

The "Five-Anti" Campaign and the "Resist-American-Aid-Korea" Movement were two other drives launched among the working class by the Communists to give workers political indoctrination.

IV. LABOR EMULATION AND PRODUCTION

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"Labor emulation" is the Communist means of increasing labor productivity without increasing cost of production. In organizing "labor emulation," the following steps are involved: (1) workers are organized to discuss the state's production plans; (2) the trade unions, on behalf of the workers, sign collective contracts with their respective administrations; (3) production meetings are held to discuss production problems; (4) workers plan and submit "rationalization" proposals to increase efficiency and popularize "advanced" methods of work.[15]

Labor emulation began in China proper in 1950. By 1953, about 80 per cent of the workers of the country had participated in this drive, and, according to Communist reports, production has been increased.

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15. People's China, Peking, May 16, 1954, pp 6-8.

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At the end of 1950, the Communists used the "Resist-America-Aid-Korea" Movement to step up the tempo of the labor emulation drive. The workers of factories and mines and other enterprises in Central-South China were mobilized to sign "patriotic emulation pacts." Four large cotton mills in Wuhan reported a 16 per cent increase in daily production during the month of November. The workers of the Wuchang Electric Company set their goal to increase production by supplying the same amount of water and electricity while reducing the cost of production. The Communists boast that the railway workers of the Chiang-an section of the Peking-Hankow Line, after signing patriotic-emulation pacts, ran the services for two months without a single accident.[16]

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In the Communist newspapers, reports of increase in production are frequently followed by reports of an increase in industrial accidents and loss of working days due to sick leaves. For instance, in the Heng-yang Railway workshop, two weeks after the beginning of labor emulation in April 1950, there were 545 persons (58.4 per cent of the total workers) reported absent because of accidents or sickness, thus causing the loss of 727 working days.[17] The I-Lo Coal Mine (a state-owned-enterprise located 25 miles southwest of Loyang, Honan Province) reported the most serious case of

16. Workers' Daily, Nov. 7, Dec. 15 and 26, 1950; Chinese Worker Monthly, Oct. 1950, p. 36, and Oct. 15, 1950, p. 18.

17. Ibid., June 15, 1950, p. 33.

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The relative levels of basic wages in the Central-South in 1952 compared with the average basic wages in all industries were: 465

Industries	Index
Cotton textiles	135.32
Tobacco	132.85
Coal mining	110.20
Iron and steel	101.79
Non-ferrous metals	86.51

The Central-South Region is one of the principal centers of China's light industries. The workers in the cotton textile and tobacco factories are the highest paid among the working population. This situation, however, is more common in Wuhan and Canton than in other cities in this area.

The Communists claimed that labor productivity had increased since the adoption of the Eight-Grade Wage System in Central-South China, because workers had more opportunities to advance to a higher grade and earn more pay. For instance, one month after the adoption of the new wage system in the Ch'i-i Factory in this region, labor productivity increased 20 per cent.[23] In a bookstore in Nanchang in Kiangsi Province, all books about machines were sold out a few days after the new wage system was put into practice in this city. The 465 461

23. Ibid., p. 21.

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Communists said the workers became more ambitious and wished to improve their technical knowledge in order to earn more pay.

The Communists told the workers that it was to their advantage to produce more in order that all of the people could share the increase. But according to Communist statistics for 13 major enterprises in Central-South China, the value of production increased 88 per cent in 1951 in comparison with that of 1950, while wages increased only 13.29 per cent in the corresponding period.[24] Increase in wages was far behind the increase in production.

After the reform of the wage system in 1952, the wage level in Central-South China increased 15 per cent in comparison with that of 1951. The average number of wage units each worker earned per month was raised from 190.02 in 1951 to 218.52 in 1952. One unit[25] was quoted at 2,168 yuan (old currency) in September 1952. The average basic money wage for each worker per month grossed 473,751 yuan (about US$ 20.10).[26]

According to the Communists, the increase of wages in China today is not the result of an effort to keep pace with the rise of commodity prices but represents a real increase in the workers' living standard. They reported that in Central-South

24. Ibid., p. 5.
25. Yangtze Daily, Sept. 1952, p. 2.
26. One U. S. $ was quoted as 20,040 yuan in Canton Daily, Sept. 2, 1952, p. 4.